

REMARKS

With this Response, claim 2 has been amended. Claims 1, 32-67, 79-92, 94, 95, 97, 98, 100, 101, 103, 104, 106, 107, 109, 110, 112, 113, 115, 116, 118, 119, 121, 122, 124, 125, 127, 128, 130, 131, 133, 134, 136 and 137 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 2-31, 68-78, 93, 96, 99, 102, 105, 108, 111, 114, 117, 120, 123, 126, 129, 132 and 135 are pending.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant kindly acknowledges that claims 2-7, 9-31, 68-78, 93, 96, 99, 102, 105, 108, 111, 114, 117, 120, 123, 126, 129, 132, 135 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has so amended these claims to place them in condition for allowance.

CLAIM ELECTION/RESTRICTIONS

Claims 32-67, 79-92, 94, 95, 97, 98, 100, 101, 103, 104, 106, 107, 109, 110, 112, 113, 115, 116, 118, 119, 121, 122, 124, 125, 127, 128, 130, 131, 133, 134, 136 and 137 were withdrawn under 37 CFR §1.142(b).

Applicant has cancelled these claims to place the application in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamet et al. (US Patent 5,236,058, hereinafter Yamet). Claim 1 was further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Staelin et al. (US Patent 6,059,062, hereinafter Staelin).

Applicant has cancelled claim 1, rendering the rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests examination of the above-identified application in view of the response.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the rejections of the claims have been overcome herein, placing all pending claims in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the above-identified application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit any deficiencies or overpayments in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 02-2666, and is requested to notify us of same.

Respectfully submitted,
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